

City of Rockville Commission on the Environment
September 11, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Faith Klareich (FK), Seth Adams (SA), David Davis (DD), Kris Dighe (KD), Beri Kravitz (BK) and Tolulope Odunlami (TO).

Absent: Geoff Sanders (GS) and Sura Yakowitz (SY).

Also in attendance: Staff Liaison Nate Wall (NW); Council Liaison Phyllis Marcuccio (PM); Michelle Clark (MC) – potential new Commissioner; Jacquie Kubin (JK) – Rockville resident interested in Green Building.

1. Welcome, News and Agenda Review

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm in the Blue Crab Room at Rockville City Hall.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

TO makes a motion to approve the August 14, 2007 meeting minutes; DD seconds. Minutes passed into record by unanimous vote.

3. Green Building in Rockville

JK has had some discussions with Mark Charles about kicking off a green building program in Rockville. She was invited to this meeting to discuss ideas with the Commission, as they have similar goals. JK feels that as a resident, we need to have a green building program in place before even more of the City gets built (and especially re-built). Town Center is an excellent example of why we still need a green building program – large chunks of the City could still get redeveloped and we would want it to be done sustainably. JK thought that starting up a lecture series, perhaps bringing in some folks from NREL and others would be a good way to start people talking.

FK then described some of what the Commission has done to date. Talked about some of the Commission's earlier outreach to the Planning Commission and RORZOR. The Commission is gathering data on the current stock of buildings in Rockville, and would like to look at energy use across the City to see how a green building program can best be applied to the buildings we have currently in Rockville, as well as new buildings that may be built in the future. FK feels that the government should set the example for others to follow, so the bar for the City and City projects should be set even higher than for private developments.

Michelle Clark recommended starting up an awards program [Note: Rockville has an Environmental Excellence Awards program that the Commission has discussed re-invigorating: this would be an excellent opportunity to do so.]. You use the award 1st, and peer pressure will help others come into line with green building standards.

The work of the Commission's High Performance Buildings group was discussed. JK mentioned she would be interested in being notified of HPB meetings.

Rockville's Green Building Program will have more momentum to it after the upcoming presentation of the Sustainable Rockville Strategy to the Mayor & Council (agenda item #5). The Commission will continue to work on this, and will discuss this further at the next meeting.

4. Discuss / Endorse Commission Comments for 9/17 Mayor & Council Meeting

FK had consolidated comments from last meeting on the proposed ordinance to create a Refuse 7 Recycling Commission. It was decided that FK and DD would present the comments to the Mayor & Council on the 17th. DD moves, TO seconds to approve the comments as written. Unanimous approval to endorse the comments.

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5. Discuss / Endorse Sustainable Rockville Strategy

As the Commission has been involved in the preparation of the Strategy from the beginning, there were few additional comments to this final draft being taken to the Mayor & Council. In general, the Commission endorses the Strategy; FK plans to attend the Mayor & Council meeting to bring up the “highlights”. Any Commissioners with additions to the document should send them to NW by September 19th. The Sustainability Strategy will be going to the Mayor & Council on October 1st.

6. Approve FY0Y Accomplishments & FY08 Goals Statement for City Clerk’s Office

FK is consolidating the accomplishments and goals from individual working groups into a single document, and adding on those of the Commission as a whole. Any additions/comments to goals or achievements should be to FK by Friday Sept. 14th. FK will send out final version the week of Sept. 17th for submittal to the City Clerk on Friday Sept. 21st.

7. Working Group Updates

Watershed Protection Group

KD mentioned that the Water group (who will now be known as the Watershed Protection Working Group) just met to update their list of goals, set specific timeframes for the goals, and assign a leader from the group to each one. These goals can be incorporated into the FY08 goals for the Commission.

High Performance Buildings Group

FK said that the Community Outreach group met with the HPB group to come up with the outreach goals and vision for that group. Again, the template of City level/ neighborhood level / individual level was used (as done with the Watershed Protection group previously). Case studies and examples will be prepared for each of these levels for use on the EC educational display. Determined a slogan for the HPB group, something along the lines of “Creating a greener Rockville by improving energy performance at home, at work and on the road”.

The Community Outreach Group

Outside of the coordination with the other working groups, the Outreach Group would like to meet with the City of Rockville Graphics Department in early October to discuss the creation of outreach materials. NW to facilitate.

8. Staff Updates

NW provided a quick update on the status of JBG’s Twinbrook Station development. The Commission had questions concerning the “green” development features initially proposed by JBG for this development, and how these features may change as a result of JBG’s interest in using the LEED-ND rating system (which is currently in pilot stage).

NW mentioned that a resolution for the City of Rockville to join ICLEI’s Cities for Climate Protection campaign would be presented to the Mayor & Council on the same evening as the Sustainability Strategy, Monday October 1st. This resolution reaffirms Rockville’s commitment to addressing climate change issues, and allows us to use ICLEI’s resources in this area (especially their greenhouse gas emissions inventory software).

The City’s new Water Resources Coordinator, Heather Gewandter, will start work on Monday Sept. 24th. Heather will be involved in all aspects of water resources, from watershed studies to spill response/prevention, illicit discharges, stream cleanups, and water resources public outreach.

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The EPA Award ceremony with Administrator Johnson has been rescheduled to September 24th at 3pm at Glenview Mansion. This should be the final date.

9. Commission Vacancies – Closed Session

BK moves that the Commission enter into closed session to discuss the final Commission vacancy; DD seconds. Unanimous vote to enter closed session.

After discussion, KD moves to recommend Michelle Clark to the Mayor & Council for appointment to fill the final vacancy on the Environment Commission; BK seconds. Unanimous vote to recommend Michelle Clark.

10. Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.